

The Homegoing Service of Hortense Sams Stewart

Sunrise: December 13, 1928

Sunset: April 14, 2016



Saturday, April 30, 2016 ~ 11:00 A.M.

Pacific Mount Olive Church of God in Christ

1385 East 21st Street ~ Los Angeles, CA 90011

Superintendent Milton L. Joyner, Senior Pastor

Elder Raymond Pillars, Officiant

Superintendent Carlton Anderson, Eulogist

Obituary

On December 13, 1928, in Beaumont, Texas, Andrew and Josephine Sams became the proud parents of Hortense Sams, the fifth of their seven children.

Her family joined the Barnum Church of God in Christ, pastored by Elder Compton in Texas. It was there that Hortense accepted Christ as her personal Lord and Savior at a very young age and became active in the church. As a teenager, Hortense played piano for the congregation and traveled with different ministers playing piano for revivals.

Hortense's mother, Josephine nurtured her daughter's gift for music by giving her weekly private piano lessons at home.

Hortense graduated from Charlton Pollard High School in Beaumont, Texas in 1944 at the age of sixteen.

As a teenager in the late 1940's, Hortense moved to California and joined the Mount Olive Church of God in Christ, pastored by Bishop E.B. Stewart. It was there that she met and fell in love with, one of Bishop Stewart's sons, Emanuel Stewart. This union blessed them with three children: Melody, Maurice and Derrick.

As a member of the Mt. Olive Church, she became the pianist for the Youth and Junior Choirs and was the first pianist for the very first State Youth Choir, jurisdiction number one, which was organized and directed by her sister, Bernice Wilson and under the presidential reign of Paul Green. Her appreciation for music was vast and included many genres and styles. Her interest included Classical, Contemporary, Gospel and Negro Spirituals to name a few. Because some of this music was not typically explored in the Church of God in Christ at that time, she formed a "Special Chorus". This was a unique and fabulous group of music lovers that challenged themselves by performing classical works of art written by such composers as Mozart, Bach, Vivaldi, Gershwin, chaikovsky and Handel. Also, Gospel and Spiritual works of art by such composers as Tindey, Johnson, Dett, Dawson and Hairston.

Hortense also served as pianist and directress for the Mt. Olive General Choir and as the Minister of Music for the Mount Olive Church of God in Christ under the pastoral leaderships of Reverend J.C. Brewster and Pastor Samuel F. Morgan.

After the death of her father in law, Bishop E.B. Stewart, the name of the Special Chorus was changed to the Stewart Memorial Choir, which she directed for thirty five years. Under her direction, many people experienced levels of growth and development that enabled them to pursue professional careers in music. Her nurturing through gospel and classical music even influenced musicians of various secular genres which include soul, R&B and Hip Hop. Her nephews Andre' and Damon and her son Derrick went on to become professional performing artists.

Obituary

Hortense pursued education continuously. She studied at Grace's Conservatory of Music, received an Associate Arts Degree from Los Angeles City College and a Bachelor's Degree from California State University Los Angeles. She took additional courses at Pepperdine University and UCLA and frequently attended music workshops.

Hortense worked at the Trinity Street Children's Center as a school teacher and retired after 27 years of service.

In the year 2006, Hortense experienced health challenges which led to a gradual decade-long decline. During this period, many healthcare professionals (and other people) were baffled by her resilience. In fact, the family was told repeatedly that "she might not make it this time." While the care of her devoted family and caregivers accounted for a portion of her longevity, we know that what actually sustained her were the fervent prayers of the saints and God's grace and mercy.

Surrounded by her loving family and in the comfort of her home, the Lord gently welcomed Hortense home on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 02:55 a.m. .

She leaves to celebrate her life: a loving and devoted daughter Melody Stewart Akande of Los Angeles, CA; two loving and devoted sons Maurice Omar Stewart of North Hollywood, CA and Derrick Lemel Stewart of Hollywood, CA; one brother Willis Lee Sams of Los Angeles, CA; one sister Betty Doris Ray of Los Angeles, CA; A brother in-law Eld. Arthur Stewart (Charlene) of Oakland, CA; A sister in-law Barbara Stewart-Powell of Los Angeles, CA; four nieces Vernelle Wilson of Los Angeles, CA, Gwendolyn Austin of Oakland, CA, Eloise Wilson of Los Angeles, CA and Sharon Sams; six nephews Andre' Du Vaule Ray (Myrta) of Los Angeles, CA, Damon Lind Ray of Los Angeles, CA, Dorsey Sams Jr., Lionelle Sams Jr. and Andrew Sams Jr.; five grandchildren Whitney Olaremi Akande of Los Angeles, CA, Jessica Olajuwon Akande of Los Angeles, CA, Tylan Maurice Stewart of Los Angeles, CA, Rza Emanuel Stewart of Long Beach, CA, Derrick Lemel Stewart Jr. of Long Beach, CA; one great grandchild Jordyn Oluwaseyi Billups and many loving relatives and friends.



Order of Celebration

Viewing 10:00 A.M.

Elder Raymond Pillars ~ Officiant

The Processional "Spirit of God"	Special Chorus
Prayer of Comfort	Pastor Willie Knight Greater True Vine Temple COGIC
Reading of the Holy Scripture	
Old Testament Psalm 121(KJV)	Eld. André DeVaule Ray
New Testament Matthew 5:14-16(KJV)	Eld. André DeVaule Ray
Ministry in Music "Well Done"	Mount Olive Combined Choir
Words of Expression ~ (two minutes please)	Ms. Paula Jones (<i>long time friend and neighbor</i>) Friends and Family Members
Ministry in Music "Let Heavenly Music Fill This Place"	Special Chorus
Reflections	Sis. Martha Cooper (<i>long time friend, former Stewart Memorial Choir President, former Mt. Olive Member</i>)
Ministry in Music "My Help"	The Family
Pastoral Reflections	Superintendent Milton L. Joyner Senior Pastor, Mt. Olive COGIC
Reflections	André DeVaule Ray (<i>nephew</i>)
Ministry in Music	Dr. Iris Stevenson and Choir
Acknowledgements	Sis. Nancy Wright (<i>loving cousin</i>)
Resolutions	First Lady Belinda Joyner Mt. Olive COGIC
Presentation	Mt. Olive Music Department
Reading of Obituary	Sis. Vivian Worthen (<i>long time friend</i>)
Sermonic Selection	André DeVaule Ray and Damon Lind Ray (<i>nephews</i>)
Eulogy	Superintendent Carlton Anderson Fountain of Life COGIC
Ministry in Music "Let the Church Say Amen"	Mt. Olive Combined Choir

~ Parting View ~



Dear Mom,

I must start by giving thanks to the Lord that He chose you as the vessel to birth me into this world. I have met some remarkable and exceptional women, but none that could hold a candle to you - God blessed me with the perfect mother. I am so thankful for what I have learned from you. You taught me the value of hard work, team work, charity and gratitude. But the best lesson I've learned from you is that All Of My Help Comes From The Lord. Thank you mom for living a life that truly represented what it means to be Christ-like. You displayed the love of God in everything you did.

The ten years that I spent caring for you has taught me so much more about unconditional love and about how important it is to relish every moment we have with each other. I will always cherish those memories of singing with you and reading God's Word and watching you laugh at my bad jokes. I considered it an honor and a privilege to serve God by caring for you and I enjoyed every second. You were my best friend.

And mom, I will keep my promise to you to witness to our whole family until everyone is saved and in route to heaven. Until we meet again....Love you always.

Your loving daughter and best friend, Melody

Mommy,
What you did wasn't easy, but you stayed strong with God
And now you are with him in Heaven where you belong.
Thank you for the unconditional love you gave me and the rest of the family.
You are the foundation of all the good in me and my sons.
I hope to see you again someday. Until then, I will miss you every day.....

Love, Derrick

I'm pretty bummed I didn't get to visit you more, but I know you are in a better place and watching over me.
Love you Grandma, you will be missed.....DJ

To a very, very nice mother in-law,
You always spent your last penny to please everyone. When my mother came here from Nigeria, you welcomed her with opened arms. You took her shopping, to nice restaurants and to worship with you at church. Thank you for treating my mother like a sister and making her feel at home. And thank you for treating me like a son - being a peacemaker and never taking anyone's side. I will always remember your devotion to your church and God's work.
May your beautiful soul rest in perfect peace.

Olufemi Akande (Michael)

I will always remember you as a woman of God...your biblical words of wisdom will never be forgotten...thank you for being like a mother to me... I will forever be grateful for the privilege to have known such an amazing woman. See you in Heaven one day...

Love, Jennifer Flemming (Rza and DJ's mom)

Dear Mom,

Even though we miss you, it would be selfish for us to want you to stay and continue to suffer. You are at peace now and that is good enough for me. I'm thankful for the time you were here. Even though it probably seemed like I wasn't listening, you taught me a lot. Rest in peace from your favorite child

Love, Maurice

Dear Grandma,

Where do I even begin? You have been like a second mother to me for my whole life. You poured so much time and effort in my early years developing my cognitive and motor skills through puzzles, brain games and more. I remember all of the times you forced me to rehearse with you for hours, at the expense of me enjoying some of my favorite shows (this was before DVR). I remember seeing how passionate you were about your music, the church and most importantly, your family. I have never seen anyone give so selflessly in my life. I remember the feeling of excitement when I would smell your cooking down the halls. Although my pants size argued that I may have enjoyed your food a little too much.

It was hard to see someone I viewed as a super woman go through a decade long decline. But even through the last ten years, you managed to stay beautiful, funny, talented, and your spirit continued to lift me up. You, along with my mother, inspired me to become the best woman I can possibly be. Your talents inspired me to pursue an education in music. I can go on with this for days, but I'll stop here. I miss you grandma and I will always love you. What matters the most is that you are no longer suffering. See you later.

Love, Jessica

Dear Hortense,

We were more than just sisters. We traveled and went places together. Now you are in a better place. Rest in peace.

Love, your sister, Betty Ray

Dear Aunty Hortense,

To a way beyond wonderful aunt who was certainly more like a second mother to me. Thank you for a wonderful life, and for taking me under your wing.

Love, your nephew, Damon Ray

P.S. Say "Hi" to my daddy for me.....

I love you grannie because you are very nice and you did a lot for everybody and I appreciate it. And you are very special. You make my life better.

Love, Jordyn ~ Your great granddaughter

"I thought of you with love today... But that is nothing new
I thought about you yesterday... And days before that too

I think of you in silence...I often speak your name
All i have are memories... And your picture in a frame

Your memory is my keepsake ...With which I never part
God has you in his keeping ...I have you in my heart"

Rest in peace Grandma, Rza

Grandma,

You have always been one of the most essential parts of my world. You always thought about everyone else's well being first (whether family or friend) before thinking of your own. You've always been a true blessing and a gift from God to me. I will miss the times you kept Jessica and me up all night teaching us new music you wanted us to learn to sing in the choir. You always said it would only take ten to fifteen minutes, and that always turned into an hour or more (LOL).

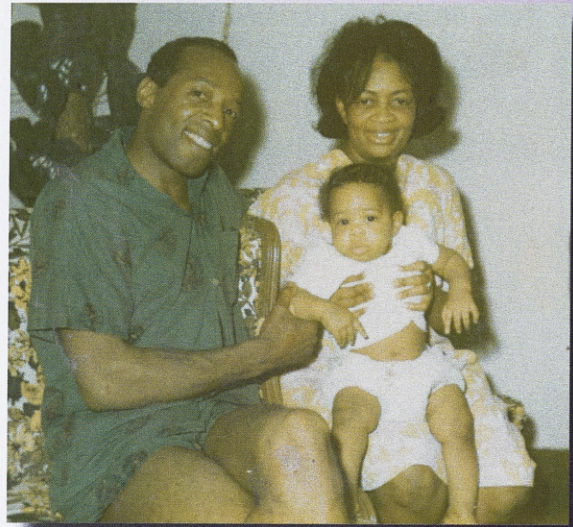
Although God has called you home to be with Him, I want you to know that it was an honor and a blessing to have shared 27 years of my life with you on this earth. I will cherish every memory I have of you - for I will miss you dearly. I'm glad that you are resting peacefully with The Lord.

This isn't goodbye because I know I'll see you later. Until then, just know that I will always love you grandma. Well done! For you have been a good and faithful servant.

Love, your first granddaughter, Whitney

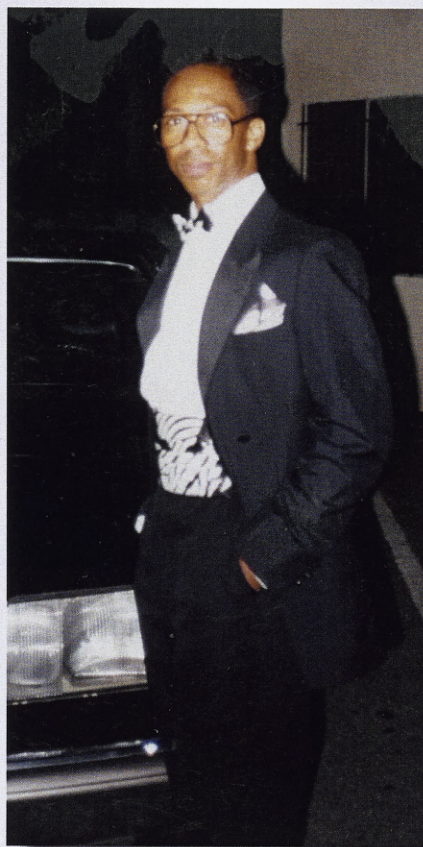
Dear Auntie Hortense,

It was such a blessing growing up in this family watching the special bond that you and your older sister Bernice (my mother) had for each other. You two were always there for each other. During my mother's periods of illness and confinement, you were right there with me in your home helping to nurse her back to health. Now you two will be together again working in the choir in heaven. Love you always. *Your niece, Vernelle*

















Active Pallbearers

Derrick Lemel Stewart, Sr.
Rza Emanuel Stewart
Derrick Lemel Stewart, Jr. (D.J.)


Tylan Maurice Stewart
Bryan Spain
LaMont Collins




Honorary Pallbearers

Maurice Omar Stewart
Kevin Patrick Thomas


Troid J. Bates, Sr.
Rev. Troid J. Bates, Jr.



Acknowledgements




*The family of Hortense Sams Stewart wishes to express their appreciation
for your many acts of kindness, prayers deeds and words of comfort.
May God richly bless each of you.*



Special Thanks

*The Mount Olive Family • Andre' Ray • Sis. Martha Cooper
Sis. Nancy Wright • Bro. Clavis Ballard • Bro. Anthony Spence
Dr. Iris Stevenson and Choir • Dr. Teck Tan, Playa Medical Clinic
HAGA Hospice • Ruby Jewel Howell • Natasha Washington
Dora Arrango • Olufemi Olatunde Akande • Clavis Ballard
Sarah Jones • ButlerGrafix Program Designs*



Interment

Inglewood Park Cemetary
720 E. Florence Avenue
Inglewood, CA 90301

Repast

Good News Missionary Baptist Church
2400 W. Vernon Avenue • Los Angeles, CA 90008
Terry Wilson, Pastor



Services Entrusted to:

Angelus Funeral Home
3875 S. Crenshaw Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90008

